CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A surgical instrument comprising:

a tube having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end including a cutting edge; and

a shaft within said tube, said shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end of said shaft including a blade, one of said shaft and said tube being rotatable with respect to the other such that said blade cooperates with said cutting edge.

2. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said shaft is coaxial with said tube.

3. The instrument of claim 2 wherein said shaft has an inner lumen.

4. The instrument of claim 2 wherein said shaft has an inner lumen such that an imaging device may be inserted therein.

5. The instrument of claim 2 wherein said shaft has an inner lumen such that a separate surgical instrument may be inserted therein.

6. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said tube has a first axis and said shaft has a second axis displaced from said first axis.

7. The instrument of claim 1 wherein one of said cutting edge and said blade is adapted to be electrically energized.

8. The instrument of claim 1 wherein both said cutting edge and said blade are adapted to be electrically energized.

9. The instrument of claim 1 further comprising an outer electrode on a surface of said tube, said outer electrode being adjacent said cutting edge, and an inner electrode on a surface of said blade, wherein said blade and said cutting edge mechanically cooperate to cut body tissue, and said inner electrode cooperates with said outer electrode to provide electrocautery of the body tissue being cut.

10. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said tube is fixedly attached to a handle and said shaft is rotatable relative to said tube.

11. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said shaft is fixedly attached to a handle and said tube is rotatable relative to said shaft.

12. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said shaft and said tube are both rotatable.

13. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said blade has an elongated portion having two opposing surfaces and a cutting edge between said opposing surfaces, said opposing surfaces having an insulating layer thereon.

14. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said blade includes a serrated cutting edge.

15. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said cutting edge on said tube is serrated.

16. A surgical instrument comprising:

a tube having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end including an outer cutting edge; and

a tubular shaft within said tube and coaxial with said tube, said shaft having a distal end, a proximal end, and a blade extending longitudinally from said distal end, said blade including an inner cutting edge, wherein said tube and said tubular shaft are rotatable about a common axis such that said inner cutting edge is operatively associated with said outer cutting edge.

17. The instrument of claim 16 wherein at least one of said blade and said outer cutting edge is adapted to be electrically energized.

18. The instrument of claim 16 further comprising an outer electrode on a surface of said tube, said outer electrode being adjacent said outer cutting edge, and an inner electrode on a surface of said blade, wherein said blade and said outer cutting edge mechanically cooperate to cut body tissue, and said inner electrode cooperates with said outer electrode to provide electrocautery of the body tissue being cut.

19. The instrument of claim 16 wherein one of said outer cutting edge and said inner cutting edge is serrated.

20. The instrument of claim 16 wherein said distal end of said tube includes a first outer cutting edge and a second outer cutting edge and said blade includes a first inner cutting edge and a second inner cutting edge.

21. The instrument of claim 20 wherein at least one of said first outer cutting edge, said second outer cutting edge, said first inner cutting edge, and said second inner cutting edge is serrated.

22. The instrument of claim 16 further comprising a handle operatively associated with said proximal ends of said tube and said tubular shaft.

23. The instrument of claim 22 wherein said handle includes a tube controller coupled to said tube and a shaft controller coupled to said shaft.

24. The instrument of claim 23 wherein said handle includes an elongated grip, said tube controller includes a first ring rotatably mounted on said grip, and said shaft controller includes a second ring rotatably mounted on said grip.

25. The instrument of claim 16 wherein said shaft is tubular and defines an inner lumen.

26. The instrument of claim 25 wherein said inner lumen is configured to receive an imaging device inserted therein.

27. The instrument of claim 25 wherein said inner lumen is configured to receive a separate surgical instrument inserted therein.

28. A surgical instrument comprising:

a handle;

a tube extending from and coupled to said handle, said tube having a distal end and a cutting edge at said distal end, said tube having a proximal end associated with said handle; and

a tubular shaft defining a lumen coaxial with said tube, said shaft rotatably disposed within said tube, said shaft having a proximal end adjacent said handle and a distal end adjacent said distal end of said tube, said shaft having a cutting edge at its distal end, wherein one of said cutting edge on said shaft and said cutting edge on said tube is adapted to be electrically energized.

29. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said handle defines an opening in communication with said lumen of said tubular shaft wherein said opening and said lumen provide access through the instrument to said distal end of said tubular shaft.

30. The instrument of claim 29 further comprising an auxiliary instrument inserted through said opening.

31. The instrument of claim 27 wherein said auxiliary instrument is selected from the group consisting of a suction cannula, an irrigation cannula, an imaging device, and a sensor.

32. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said cutting edge on said tube extends at an angle away from said tube.

33. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said cutting edge on said shaft extends at an angle away from said tube.

34. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said distal end of said tube includes a first scoop and said distal end of said shaft includes a second scoop such that said first and second scoops are operatively associated to collect a biopsy sample when said shaft is rotated within said tube.

35. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said tube and said shaft are telescoping.

36. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said tube and said shaft are bendable.

37. A surgical instrument comprising:

a handle;

a tube having a distal end and an outer blade extending from said distal end, said tube having a proximal end associated with said handle; and

a shaft disposed within said tube, said shaft having a distal end adjacent said distal end of said tube, said shaft having an inner blade extending from said distal end, said shaft having a proximal end extending into said handle, wherein said inner blade and said outer blade are adapted to be electrically energized.

38. The instrument of claim 37 wherein said tube has a first longitudinal axis and said shaft has a second longitudinal axis displaced from said first longitudinal axis.

39. The instrument of claim 38 wherein said tube is fixedly attached to said handle and said shaft is revolvable about said first longitudinal axis relative to said tube.

40. The instrument of claim 38 wherein said shaft is fixedly attached to said handle and said tube is rotatable about said first longitudinal axis relative to said shaft.

41. The instrument of claim 36 wherein said shaft is revolvable about said first longitudinal axis relative to said tube, and said tube is rotatable about said first longitudinal axis relative to said shaft.

42. A method for cutting body tissue, the method comprising:

inserting a surgical instrument comprising a tube having a distal end, a proximal end, a longitudinal axis between said distal and proximal ends, and a cutting edge at said distal end of said tube, said instrument further including a shaft having a distal end, a proximal end, and a blade at said distal end of said shaft, said shaft being rotatably disposed within said tube such that said cutting edge and said blade are rotatably engageable;

aligning the body tissue to be cut between said cutting edge and said blade; and

rotating at least one of said tube and said shaft about said longitudinal axis such that said cutting edge and said blade engage to cut the body tissue.

43. The method of claim 42 further comprising electrically energizing at least one of said cutting edge and said blade wherein the body tissue is cauterized.